

### ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and apparatus, including a computer program product, implementing techniques for displaying a table of data including a set of markers associated with rows or columns of the table, the table having one or more sort keys having a sort key order including a most significant sort key, each sort key being a row or column of the table; 5 receiving a user input gesture selecting a marker; establishing the row or column associated with the user-selected marker as the most significant sort key, and maintaining the positions of the remaining sort keys in the sort key order; sorting the data using the sort key order; and displaying the sorted data. The techniques also include representing 10 visually a sort key order for a table of data by displaying on a graphical user interface display one or more markers with a pattern of distinct visual properties.

20746457.5.doc